Name of State/UT	Quantity Allocated
Meghalaya	20401
Mizoram	6217
Nagaland	13312
Orissa	314977
Pondicherry	12257
Punjab	237192
Rajasthan	398913
Sikkim	5582
Tamil Nadu	558929
Tripura	30832
Uttar Pradesh	1241772
Uttaranchal	89849
West Bengal	752103
TOTAL	9163712

Discussion on Supply of Petroleum Products

†2238. SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that talks by Government are going on with other countries for supply of petroleum and natural gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of countries with whom talks held so far; and

(d) the decisions taken by Government in consequence of the above talks?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) In keeping with the objectives of the Energy Security section of the National Common Minimum Programme, ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), as well as other national oil companies such as IOC, OIL and GAIL have been pursuing the acquisition of equity oil abroad and oil and gas exploration acreages and producing properties. These companies have participating interests in oil and gas projects located

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

in Vietnam, Sudan, Russia, Nigeria, Sao Tome Principe JDA, Iraq, Iran, Myanmar, Libya, Syria, Australia, Ivory Coast, Cuba, Qatar and Egypt.

India is also pursuing the import of natural gas from Iran through an onland pipeline *via* Pakistan and from Myanmar through an onland pipeline *via* Bangaldesh. India has also expressed an interest in considering participation in the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan pipeline.

Oil PSUs enter into term contracts for the supply of crude oil with the National Oil Companies of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, Iran, UAE, Malaysia, Nigeria, Brunei and Libya.

For extending guidance and advice to Indian oil companies in their efforts to acquire equity oil abroad, Government have constituted an Advisory Committee on Oil Diplomacy for Energy Security comprising experts with specialized knowledge of the countries and regions with whom the oil companies are expected to interact.

Private Companies in Gas Transmission Projects

2239. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allowed private companies to lay gas transmission lines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have set up an expert group to study international experience in building gas pipeline; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Gas Pipelines in the country have been laid and are being laid by the companies on commercial considerations. The gas pipeline network is proposed to be laid in a competitive environment with participation from both the public and private sectors. Besides GAIL, a public sector undertaking under the administrative control of this Ministry, at present, Gas Transportation and Infrastructure Company Ltd. (GTICL) and Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (GSPCL) also propose to lay gas pipelines in the country.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to (c) above.